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## Mole Street Journal, December 2010

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Dept. of Chemistry and Biochemistry

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UNIVERSITY OF  
ARKANSAS  
J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT  
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

# THE MOLE STREET JOURNAL

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY

DECEMBER 2010

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 12

## Department Scholarships

The department awarded more than \$10,000 in scholarships to undergraduate chemistry majors this fall. All will be honored at the Honors Night event in April.

The inaugural Octa N. High Scholar is **Ethan McBride** (not pictured). Student photos were either submitted or on file. More information about the recipients on page 3.



**Grant Meredith**  
*DuPont Scholarship*



**Ashley Rosenberg**  
*DuPont Scholarship*



**Molly Steen**  
*DuPont Scholarship*



**Gayatri Suresh Kumar**  
*Arthur and Lois Fry Scholarship*



**Ross Harmon**  
*William K. Noyce Scholarship*



**Jonathan Schmidt**  
*William K. Noyce Scholarship*



**Mary Smith**  
*William K. Noyce Scholarship*



**Christopher DuVall**  
*Jacob Sacks Scholarship*

## Chen Defends



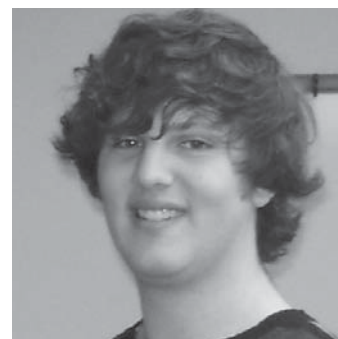
**Feng Chen**

**Feng Chen** successfully defended her doctoral dissertation "Sensory, Tissue-regenerative, and Filtering Membranes of Lattice-Intercalated Nanobelts," Dec. 10. Her research advisor is **Z. Ryan Tian**.

Chen has an undergraduate degree from the National University of Defense Technology.



**Shannon Mumma**  
*Jacob Sacks Scholarship*



**Ettore Rastelli**  
*Jacob Sacks Scholarship*

## Faculty News

### Center Celebrates 10 Years

The Arkansas Center for Space and Planetary Sciences celebrated its 10th anniversary Dec. 8-9.

**Derek Sears** presented "The Early History of the Keck Laboratory." He is a cofounder and former director of the center.

### On the Go

**Pacificchem** (International Chemical Congress of Pacific Basin Societies) Honolulu, Hawaii. Dec. 15-20

**Bob Gawley** organized a two-day

symposium, along with Victor Snieckus of Canada and Kiyoshi Tomioka of Japan, "Carbanions: Modern Perspectives in Structure, Reactivity, and Synthesis."

Gawley also presented "Catalytic Dynamic Resolution of Chiral Organolithiums," and "Kinetics of Enantiomerization and Resolution of N-Boc-2-lithiopiperidine," with graduate student **Tim Beng**.

**Matt McIntosh** presented "Synthetic Studies toward Antascomycin B."

Graduate student **Sefat Al-Warsh** presented a poster "Toward Solutions to the Problem of Controlling E-O-enolate

Geometry of Lactate Esters."

Graduate student **Abby Hubbard** presented "Design and Synthesis of Novel Chiral N-Heterocyclic Carbene Precursors."

**Ingrid Fritsch, Charles Wilkins** and graduate students **Maher Abu-Libdeh, Leanne Mathurin, Brett Spann, Liz Srader** and **Cody Wright** attended.

**Matt McIntosh** gave a seminar "The Role of Organic Synthesis in Drug Discovery," at the University of Tulsa Nov. 15.

## Alumni News

**Sue Brand**, Ph.D. '08, is a postdoc at Arkansas State University as of Nov. 1. Brand will be doing photobiology and developing technology for the U.S. Army to incorporate UV LEDs into gas masks and air filtration systems to kill anthrax bacteria and spores.

**Anna Daily**, Ph.D. '07, will join Virtual Incubation as a scientist Jan. 3. As part of the research support team, she will provide expertise in the expression and purification of recombinant proteins, genetic engineering/cloning and numerous analytical chemistry techniques.

**Steven Neal**, B.S. '04, M.S. '06, and **Allyson Neal**, B.A. '06, welcomed the birth of their son Benton Cooper Neal Oct. 9. Baby Benton weighed 8 pounds and 9 ounces and was 20 ¾

inches long. He is a Hog Fan in training with a Razorback-theme nursery.

Steven Neal is a Ph.D. student at Iowa State University working with Aaron Sadow. Allyson Neal works for Walgreens.



Benton Cooper Neal

**Melissa Weston**, Ph.D. '10, is a senior scientist at Halliburton in Duncan, Okla.

**Susan Grisham**, B.S. '02, Ph.D. '09, married Dev Banerjee in August in Fayetteville and honeymooned in Hawaii. The couple also had a ceremony in the groom's hometown of Kolkata, India in September.



Grisham is a postdoctoral fellow in the physics department. Banerjee is the engineering materials science manager at Kennametal in Rogers.

Above: Wedding photo of Grisham and spouse from their Fayetteville wedding.

At right: Wedding photo of Grisham and spouse from ceremony in India.



## Safety Tip

### PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)

- **Someone close by who knows you are working in the lab**
- **Safety goggles**
- **Gloves**
- **Lab coat**



## Student News

### Students Pass Cumes

The following graduate students have passed the appropriate number of cumulative exams and are now official doctoral candidates.



**Adam Kreidermacher**  
(Research advisor - Ingrid Fritsch)



**Benard Omogo**  
(Research advisor - Colin Heyes)



**Ashley Ramsey**  
(Research advisor - Colin Heyes)

### Scholarship Recipients

#### **DuPont Scholarship**

*Established through industrial gifts from DuPont-Conoco.*

**Grant Meredith** is a premed Departmental Honors College Scholar and a member of AED. He is married to Molly Meredith and is the son of May and Murl Meredith of Fayetteville.

**Ashley Rosenberg** is a Departmental Honors College Scholar pursuing the biochemistry option. She is a member of AXE, a 2010 COBRE REU participant. This fall she won a poster award at the Arkansas INBRE Research Conference for her research under Matt McIntosh. She is the daughter of Paul and Andrea Rosenberg of Denver, Colo. Her father is an alumnus and her grandfather is Professor Emeritus of Marketing and Transportation Leon Rosenberg.

**Molly Steen** is a Four-Year Honors College Scholar. She is the president of the ACS Student Affiliates and is vice president of the campus chapter of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES). She researches in the Stites lab. She is the daughter of Tom and Keli Steen of Grove, Okla., where she graduated first in her high school class.

#### **Arthur and Lois Fry Scholarship**

*Established by Arthur Fry, University Professor Emeritus, and his late wife Lois. Awarded to chemistry majors with a 3.0 GPA or above, who plan to work in professional chemistry.*

**Gayatri Suresh Kumar** is a Four-Year Honors College Scholar, a HHMI Scholar and a member of the ACS Student Affiliates. She is pursuing minors in business and French. Originally from Chennai, India, she is the daughter of T.K.S. Kumar and Sujatha Suresh Kumar of Fayetteville.

#### **William K. Noyce Scholarship**

*Established in 1966 to honor the contributions made to the department by Professor William Noyce, who died that same year at the young age of 54.*

**Ross Harmon** plans to attend pharmacy school and is pursuing a minor in Spanish. He is the son of Ralph and Denise Harmon of Fort Smith.

**Jonathan Schmidt** is a Departmental Honors College Scholar,

a 2010 COBRE REU participant and a member of the pre-pharmacy club. He researches in the Stenzen lab and is the son of David and Debbie Schmidt of Germantown, Tenn.

**Mary Smith** is a 2010 COBRE REU participant and researches in the Stenzen lab. She is pursuing the biophysical option. She is the daughter of Brenda Smith and the late Russell G. Smith of Greenwood.

#### **Octa N. High Scholarship**

*Established in 2009 by the late Octa N. High. The 1933 alumna almost dropped out of school at the University of Arkansas during the Great Depression but was able to earn a bachelor's degree in zoology through financial support by the university. This scholarship aids students in anthropology, biological sciences, and chemistry and biochemistry. Recipients are referred to as Octa N. High Scholars.*

**Ethan McBride** is interested in organic synthesis and processes. He is the son of Gayla Scott and Douglas McBride of Texarkana, Texas.

#### **Jacob Sacks Scholarship**

*Established to honor the late Professor Jacob Sacks and his wife Wilma. He was a faculty member for more than 20 years and was largely responsible for establishing the biochemistry program. She was a physician and helped to establish many projects in maternal and child health.*

**Christopher DuVall** is a Departmental Honors College Scholar doing research in the Koeppel lab and pursuing a minor in finance. He is a member of AXE where he serves as treasurer. He is the son of Mitchell and Melody DuVall of Tahlequah, Okla.

**Shannon Mumma** is a Departmental Honors College Scholar, a 2010 COBRE REU participant and a member of AED. She researches in the Stites lab and is pursuing minors in business and psychology. She is the daughter of Teresa McNutt and Tony Mumma of Tulsa.

**Ettore Rastelli** is Four-Year Honors College Scholar pursuing a minor in math and is a researcher in the Zheng lab. He is the son of Lee and Corrie Rastelli of Galveston, Texas.



Photo of the Chi Omega Greek Theatre in the snow by Denise Greathouse.

## Calendar of Events

### January

- 12-24 ..... Open registration and drop/add for new students
- 17..... Martin Luther King Holiday, university closed
- 17..... Last day to receive 100% cancellation of fees for an official withdrawal for spring 2011
- 18..... First day of spring 2011 classes
- 21..... CUME
- 24..... Last day to add a full semester class or to register for spring 2011
- 24..... The Arthur Fry Lecture Series featuring Donna G. Blackmond
- 31..... Last day to drop a full semester class without having the mark of "W"
- 31..... Spring seminar series begins

The above dates and events are listed on the department's Blackboard site  
<https://learn.uark.edu/>

## Save the Date

The Arthur Fry Lecture Series presents Donna G. Blackmond of The Scripps Research Institute, Monday, Jan. 24.

## Holiday Break

The University of Arkansas will be closed, except for essential operations, Friday, Dec. 24, re-opening Monday, Jan. 3, 2011.

## December Birthdays

- 04.....Evgenia Akhmetova
- 06.....Nicole Webb
- 06.....Jack Thoma
- 08.....Brett Spahn
- 27.....Nan Zheng
- 31.....Scott Morris

*The publishing of birthdays is not intended to invade the privacy of anyone. If you prefer not to be included, please let us know.*

## Library Hours

CHBC Library (CHEM 225)  
<http://libinfo.uark.edu/chemistry>

### Holiday hours (Dec. 16 - Jan. 2)

- Dec. 16-17.....8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Dec. 18-19.....CLOSED
- Dec. 20-23.....8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Dec. 24-Jan. 2 .....CLOSED

### Interim hours (Jan. 3-14)

- Jan. 3-7.....8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Jan. 10-14.....8 a.m. to 5 p.m.